

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 - 52 and replace them with the following claims. After amendment, the status of the claims will be as shown below.

Claims 1 - 52 (cancelled)

53. (newly presented) A clamping apparatus comprising:
a frame;

a plurality of clamping arms movably supported by the frame for grasping and releasing a load; and

an adjustable bushing mounted on the frame and guiding one of the clamping arms for translation with respect to the frame.

54. (newly presented) A clamping apparatus as claimed in claim 53 wherein the bushing can be moved towards or away from the one of the clamping arms by rotation of the bushing.

55. (newly presented) A clamping apparatus as claimed in claim 54 wherein the bushing is screwed into the frame and has an inner end for guiding the one of the clamping arms.

56. (newly presented) A clamping apparatus as claimed in claim 53 including a first adjustable bushing opposing an upper surface of the one of the clamping arms and a second adjustable bushing opposing a lower surface of the one of the clamping arms.

57. (newly presented) A clamping apparatus as claimed in claim 56 wherein each of the bushings slidably engages the one of the clamping arms.

58. (newly presented) A clamping apparatus as claimed in claim 56 including a third adjustable bushing and a fourth adjustable bushing opposing opposite lateral sides of the one of the clamping arms.

59. (newly presented) A clamping apparatus as claimed in claim 53 wherein the bushing has a portion comprising plastic for slidably engaging the one of the clamping arms.

60. (newly presented) A clamping apparatus as claimed in claim 54 wherein the bushing includes a portion for engaging with a tool for rotating the bushing.

61. (newly presented) A clamping apparatus as claimed in claim 60 wherein the bushing includes a socket for receiving a wrench.

62. (newly presented) A clamping apparatus comprising:
a frame;
a plurality of clamping arms pivotably mounted on the frame, each clamping arm including a contact portion for contacting a load to be lifted, each clamping arm defining a four-bar linkage which controls an angle of the contract portion with respect to

the vertical as the clamping arm pivots with respect to the frame; and

at least one drive mechanism connected to one of the clamping arms to pivot the one of the clamping arms with respect to the frame.

63. (newly presented) A clamping apparatus as claimed in claim 62 wherein the four-bar linkage comprises a parallel linkage which maintains the angle of the contact portion with respect to the vertical constant as the clamping arm pivots with respect to the frame.

64. (newly presented) A clamping apparatus as claimed in claim 62 wherein each clamping arm includes a lever portion pivotably connected to the frame and to the contact portion, and a control rod extending alongside the lever portion and pivotably connected to the frame and to the contact portion, the four-bar linkage comprising the lever portion, the control rod, a portion of the frame extending between the lever portion and the control rod, and a portion of the contact portion extending between the lever portion and the control rod.

65. (newly presented) A clamping apparatus as claimed in claim 62 wherein a separation between the contact portions of two of the clamping arms opposing each other can change by at least 4 inches due to pivoting of at least one of the opposing clamping arms relative to the frame with an angle with respect to the

vertical of each contact portion of the two opposing clamping arms changing no more than 2 degrees.

66. (newly presented) A clamping arrangement comprising:
a lift truck; and

a clamping apparatus supported by the lift truck and having a pair of opposing clamping arms capable of relative movement towards and away from each other to grasp or release an object, the clamping apparatus being pivotable about an axis with respect to the lift truck to adjust an angle of the clamping apparatus with respect to the horizontal, the angle of the clamping apparatus with respect to the horizontal being releasably fixable.

67. (newly presented) A method of operating the clamping arrangement of claim 66 comprising pivoting the clamping apparatus with respect to the lift truck about the axis to adjust an angle of the clamping apparatus with respect to the horizontal, then securing the clamping apparatus against rotation about the axis, and then grasping a load with the clamping arms.

68. (newly presented) A clamping arrangement comprising:
a lift truck;

a support member supported by the lift truck and extending away from the lift truck in a widthwise direction of the lift truck; and

a clamping apparatus supported by the support member and

having a pair of opposing clamping arms capable of relative movement towards and away from each other to grasp or release an object, the clamping apparatus being pivotable about a first axis with respect to the support member between a first position in which the clamping arms are disposed outboard of the first axis in the widthwise direction of the lift truck and a second position in which the clamping arms are disposed forward of the first axis in the fore-and-aft direction of the lift truck.

69. (newly presented) A clamping arrangement as claimed in claim 68 wherein the support member has an engaging portion in an outer end thereof, the arrangement further comprising a connector connecting the support member to the clamping apparatus and comprising

a central wall,

first and second opposing walls extending from the central wall and pivotably connected to the frame of the clamping apparatus to permit the frame to pivot about a second axis transverse to the first axis to adjust an angle of the clamping apparatus with respect to the horizontal,

an adjustment bolt extending from the central wall and engaging the frame for fixing an angle of the frame with respect to the connector about the second axis,

a third wall extending from the central wall on an opposite side of the central wall from the first and second walls and pivotably connected to the support member for pivoting with respect to the support member about the first axis between first

and second positions, the third wall including first and second engaging portions respectively aligned with the engaging portion of the support member when the third wall is in its first or second position, respectively, and

a removable pin engageable with the engaging portion in the support member and whichever of the first and second engaging portions of the third wall is aligned therewith to releasably secure the third wall in its first or second position.

70. (newly presented) A clamping arrangement as claimed in claim 69 wherein each of the engaging portion in the support member and the first and second engaging portions comprises a hole.

71. (newly presented) A clamping arrangement as claimed in claim 69 wherein the connector includes a fourth wall extending from the central wall parallel to the third wall and having first and second engaging portions aligned with the first and second engaging portions in the third wall.

72. (newly presented) A clamping arrangement as claimed in claim 69 wherein the frame of the clamping apparatus is a cross-shaped frame with a plurality of legs, and one of the legs is pivotably connected to the connector.

73. (newly presented) A clamping arrangement as claimed in claim 72 wherein the frame has four legs, and the leg connected

to the connector is longer than the other three legs.

74. (newly presented) A method of operating the clamping arrangement of claim 68 comprising pivoting the clamping apparatus with respect to the support member about the first axis between a first position in which the clamping arms are disposed outboard of the first axis in the widthwise direction of the lift truck and a second position in which the clamping arms are disposed forward of the first axis in the fore-and-aft direction of the lift truck, and grasping an object with the clamping arms when the clamping apparatus is in one of the first and second positions.